



VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MSDH WIC Program
June 18, 2020

Overview

- Authorization Timeline
- Approved Products List & UPC Management
- Pre-Authorization Monitoring
- Vendor Training



Key Activities Timeline

Dates provided
are tentative
based on known
information

Key Authorization Activities

Activity	Date
Vendor Technology Survey	July 2019 December 2019 *On-going
Vendor Advisory Meetings	Monthly
Application Open	October 16, 2019
Last Date to Submit Application	September 30, 2020
Vendor Application Moratorium	October 1, 2020- January 31, 2022
Vendor Monitoring	Started February, 2020 Restarted June 15, 2020
Vendor Trainings	Monthly
L2 Certification (if any)	July, 2020
L3 Certifications	August, 2020

Approved Product List & UPC Management

Discussion about
adding UPC's

Approved Products List (APL) - Status

- The approved products list is currently awaiting review from FNS
- Vendors will be able to submit UPC's they would like added to the list once the official list has been posted
- The APL file will be posted to the agency website upon approval
- Additional UPC's may be added using the UPC submission form
- No submissions will be reviewed or considered until the final list is approved and posted




UPC Submission Form

- UPCs are approved according to the current food guide
- Remember to provide a copy of the product label.
 - Product name
 - Size
 - Nutrition facts
 - UPC bar code.
- Manufacturers must provide a list of stores where the product is available.

Mississippi WIC Program UPC Submission Form

Submitter's Information	
Name	Phone Number
Email	WIC Vendor ID or eWIC card number
Store or Business Name	
Address	City, State, ZIP Code

Attach a copy of the product label. It must include the product name, size, manufacturer, nutrition facts, and UPC bar code. Only products with a UPC code denoted on the container will be considered. Manufacturers must provide a list of stores where the product is available.

Product Information		
Product Type	Product Name	
Product Brand/Manufacturer	Package Size	
UPC Code* (8, 12 or 13 digits) _____		
Fill in the number <u>exactly</u> as it appears on the product label and <u>include all numbers</u> .		
		

For State WIC Use Only	
Date Received	Label Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date Reviewed	Reviewed By
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied - Reason for Denial	
Category	Subcategory
Date UPC Entered	Entered By

UPC Submission Process

- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to update or revise a UPC on the existing APL throughout the year.
- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to add a new product for a category/ subcategory that allows *any brand* to the APL throughout the year.
- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to add a new product for a category/ subcategory that *is brand specific* annually during the following period: March to May
 - Starting in 2021
- The vendor will send the UPC submission form and supporting documentation (appropriate images of the label per the instructions on the form) to eWIC@msdh.ms.gov
- The nutrition team will review the documentation and complete the UPC submission form.

Pre-Authorization Monitoring

What is
happening now

Pre-Authorization Monitoring

- On-site pre-authorization monitoring restarted June 15, 2020
- We have received a waiver for minimum stock requirements until July 31, 2020.
 - This means you will be able to pass the initial monitoring visit, but will receive a second monitoring visit before eWIC will be accepted to verify minimum stock requirements

Vendor Training

What is
happening now

Vendor Training

- On-site vendor training is scheduled for the following:

Date	Region	Grocer Time	Pharmacy Time	County	Site	Address
7/14/20	1	9:00am	1:00pm	Coahoma	MSU Extension	503 East Second Street, Clarksdale, MS 38614
7/15/20	2	9:00am	1:00pm	Washington	Washington County Health Department,	1633 Hospital Street, Greenville, MS 38701
7/16/20	3	9:00am	1:00pm	Forrest	MSU Extension	952 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

*Seating is limited. Attendance is for RSVP only. This information is subject to change based on COVID-19 precautions. All information will be on the webpage at www.freshnewwic.com.

Vendor Training cont.

- If you have a completed application, you will receive an invitation to RSVP
- Please note this training may take up to 3 hours to complete and vendors will be required to be present during the entire training
 - Roll call is taken at the beginning and end of the training session
- The primary contact or the training representative must be present for your business to receive credit for this training
- If you need to change your training representative, please contact us at vmu@msdh.ms.gov.
- Training aides will be posted to the webpage by June 30, 2020.

Vendor
Questions?



Next session

July 23, 2020 12pm CT

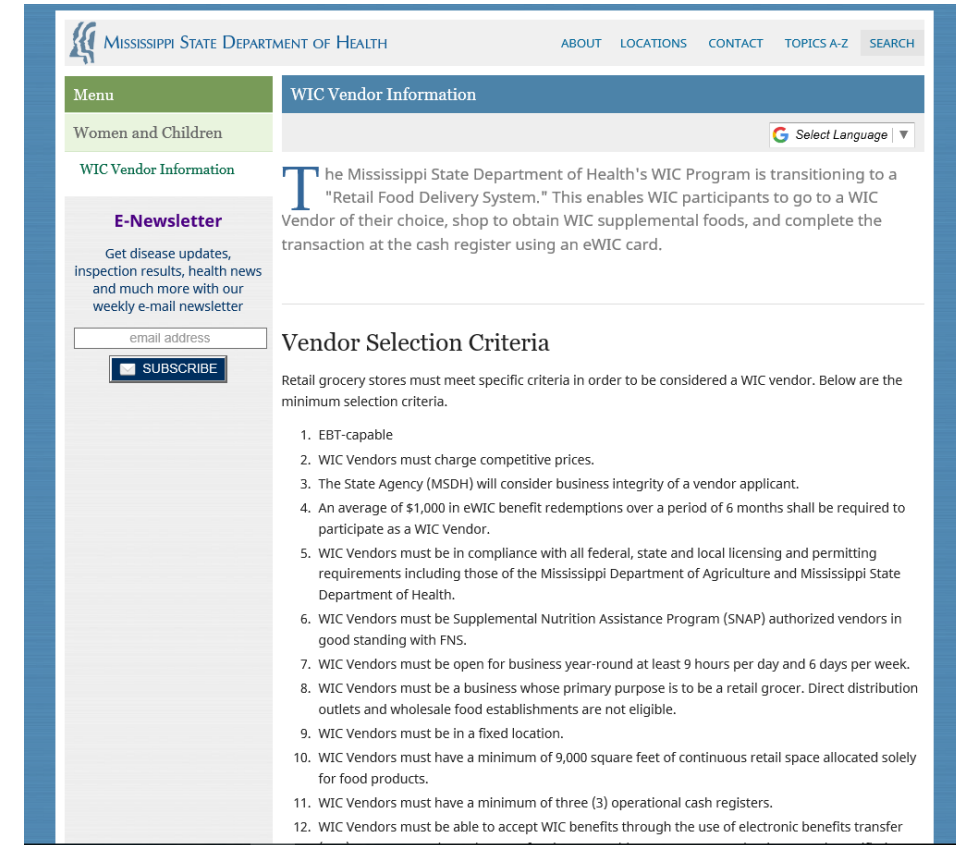
TOPICS

- Vendor Technical Assistance

NOTE: Vendor advisory sessions will be held every third Thursday at 12pm unless otherwise specified.

Where to get more information?

- Visit our website at www.freshnewwic.com
- Email us at vmu@msdh.ms.gov



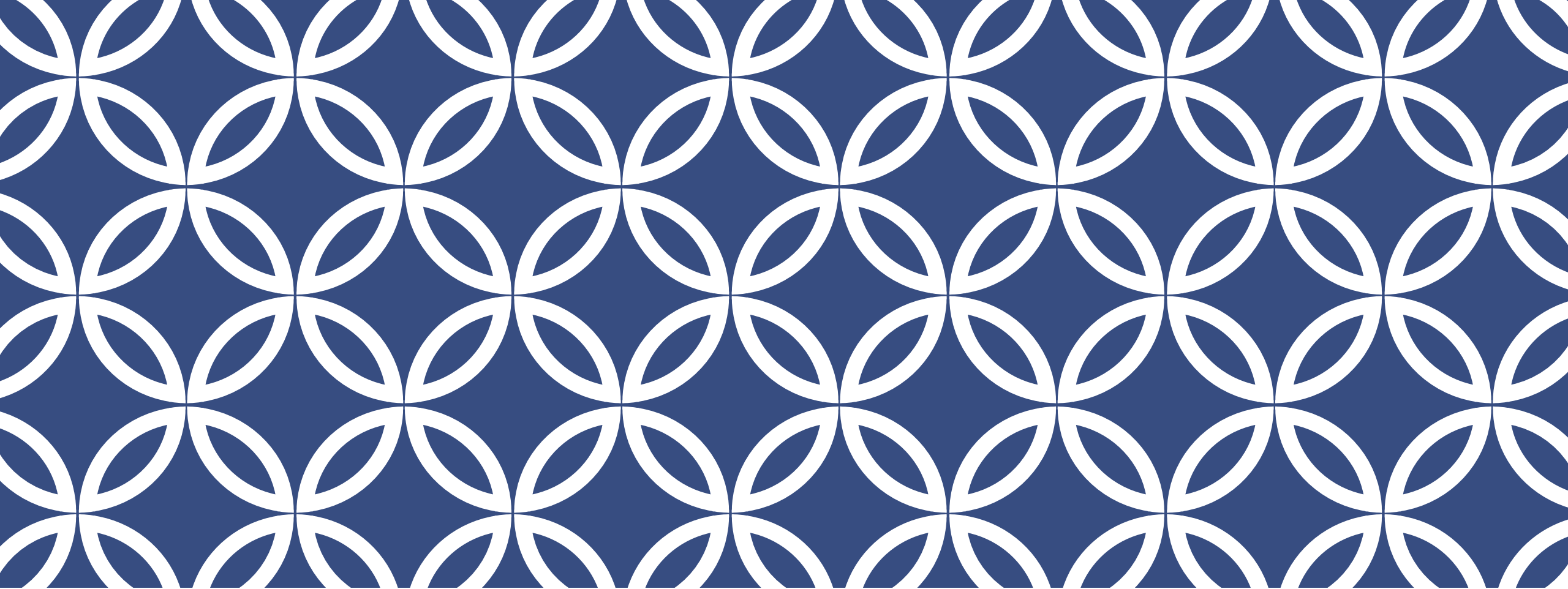
The screenshot displays the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) website. The header includes the MSDH logo and navigation links: ABOUT, LOCATIONS, CONTACT, TOPICS A-Z, and a SEARCH button. A language selection dropdown is set to "Select Language".

The main content area is titled "WIC Vendor Information". It features a sidebar with a "Menu" section containing "Women and Children" and "WIC Vendor Information". Below this is an "E-Newsletter" sign-up section with the text: "Get disease updates, inspection results, health news and much more with our weekly e-mail newsletter". It includes an input field for "email address" and a "SUBSCRIBE" button.

The main text area begins with a paragraph: "The Mississippi State Department of Health's WIC Program is transitioning to a 'Retail Food Delivery System.' This enables WIC participants to go to a WIC Vendor of their choice, shop to obtain WIC supplemental foods, and complete the transaction at the cash register using an eWIC card."

Below this is a section titled "Vendor Selection Criteria". It states: "Retail grocery stores must meet specific criteria in order to be considered a WIC vendor. Below are the minimum selection criteria." followed by a numbered list of 12 requirements:

1. EBT-capable
2. WIC Vendors must charge competitive prices.
3. The State Agency (MSDH) will consider business integrity of a vendor applicant.
4. An average of \$1,000 in eWIC benefit redemptions over a period of 6 months shall be required to participate as a WIC Vendor.
5. WIC Vendors must be in compliance with all federal, state and local licensing and permitting requirements including those of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Mississippi State Department of Health.
6. WIC Vendors must be Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized vendors in good standing with FNS.
7. WIC Vendors must be open for business year-round at least 9 hours per day and 6 days per week.
8. WIC Vendors must be a business whose primary purpose is to be a retail grocer. Direct distribution outlets and wholesale food establishments are not eligible.
9. WIC Vendors must be in a fixed location.
10. WIC Vendors must have a minimum of 9,000 square feet of continuous retail space allocated solely for food products.
11. WIC Vendors must have a minimum of three (3) operational cash registers.
12. WIC Vendors must be able to accept WIC benefits through the use of electronic benefits transfer



THANK YOU

MSDH WIC Program